

Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2005
Amendment Dated: August 2, 2005

Appl. No.: 10/727,252
Attorney Docket No.: H0005762/HON-003

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17 and 18 were examined in the outstanding office action mailed on 06/16/2005 (hereafter "Outstanding Office Action"). All the examined claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and claims 4, 7, 13, 14, and 17 were objected to. In response claims 4, 7, 8 and 14 are sought to be amended. The amendments are believed not to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17 and 18 are thus again presented for reconsideration, further in view of the below remarks.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), stating that claim 4 is of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. It is respectfully noted that claim 1 recites in relevant parts, "providing *a wireless connection from a first client*, wherein said wireless connection provides communication between said first client and said FDMS;.." (*Emphasis Added*), while amended claim 4 recites, "..., wherein said wireless connection is provided to *cover the entire communication path* between said FDMS and said first client." (*Emphasis Added*).

In other words, claim 1 merely recites that the wireless connection (which provides communication between the first client and the FDMS) is provided from the client. Claim 4 limits claim 1 by stating that the wireless connection covers the entire path for the path to the FDMS. Entry of the amendment and withdrawal of the objection with respect to claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 13 and 17 were objected to stating that the specification does not clearly set forth what is meant by "a short time". Claim 7 is sought to be amended to remove the complained of term, and withdrawal of the objection with respect to claim 7 is respectfully requested. It is further noted that claims 13 and 17 do not contain the complained of term, and thus withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

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Claim 14 has been objected to stating that all of the words are smashed together. The format of the claim has been changed and it is believed that the objection is thus overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Application 20050047331 naming as inventors Tapperson *et al* (hereafter "Tapperson"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

For example, previously presented independent claim 1 recites in relevant parts that "... enabling said operator to issue a first command *from said first client* to a first field device contained in said plurality of field devices; *transferring said first command from said first client to said FDMS on said wireless connection*; forwarding said first command from said FDMS to said first field device on said control network, ..." (*Emphasis Added*).

In other words, in accordance with the method of claim 1, an operator issues a command (directed to a field device) from a client, the command is transferred from the client to the field device management station (FDMS) on a wireless connection, and the FDMS forwards the command to the field device on a control network.

Tapperson does not disclose or reasonably suggest such a feature.

The wireless connection of Tapperson appears to be to the field devices (for example, see antennas 114 and 122), and there is no disclosure or suggestion to send commands from the client to the FDMS on a wireless connection. For example, the last sentence of paragraph 37 of the specification of Tapperson reads, "Each wireless transceiver implements a redundant wireless Fieldbus connection with terminal 104, thereby *allowing redundant wireless access to each field device from control room 60.*" (*Emphasis Added*).

Accordingly, previously presented independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Tapperson. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 20 are also allowable at least as depending from an

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allowable base claim 1.

Claim 2 is allowable for the additional reason that it discloses that:

connecting said first client to a second field device contained in said plurality of field devices;

5 transferring a second command from said FDMS to said first client using said wireless connection, wherein said second command is directed to said second field device; and

10 sending said second command from said first client to said second field device, whereby said second command is forwarded from said FDMS to said second field device *without using said control network*.

(Claim 2, *Emphasis Added*)

From the above, it may be appreciated that the first client (connected by wireless medium to FDMS) is connected to the second field device, a command (directed to the second device) is transferred from the FDMS to the first client using the wireless connection,
15 and the first client sends the command to the second field device.

In other words, the client operates as an intermediate device between the FDMS and the second field device for issuing a command. As a result, the control network is not used in such an operation.

20 Tapperson does not disclose (or reasonably suggest) such an intermediate first client used for sending a command to a field device via a client system without using the control network. Accordingly claim 2 is believed to be independently allowable over Tapperson.

Claim 3 is also independently allowable in that the operator issues the second command from the client, the FDMS receives the second command and transfers the command to the client (which then sends the command to the field device as recited in claim
25 2). In other words, the sequence of elements processing the (second) command are - client, FDMS, client, and field device.

Tapperson does not appear to disclose or reasonably suggest such a path for a

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command in which the client, from which a command is sent, again receives the command before the command is delivered to the target field device. Accordingly, claim 3 is independently allowable over the art of record.

With respect to claim 8, it is first noted that the claim is sought to be amended to fix typographical error and to further define the claim. The amendments are believed not to introduce new matter and entry of the same is respectfully requested. Presently amended claim 8 is allowable over Tapperson. Tapperson recites in relevant parts:

A field device management station (FDMS) enabling management of a plurality of field devices, *said plurality of field devices being coupled to said FDMS by a control network*, said FDMS comprising:

a wireless interface *providing connectivity to a first client by a wireless medium*; and

a data manager block *receiving a first command from said first client on said wireless medium*, said first command being directed to a first field device contained in said plurality of field devices, *said data manager forwarding said first command on said control network*,

wherein said first command is issued by an operator from said first client such that *said operator manages said plurality of field devices using said first client*,

a wire-line interface providing connectivity to a second client by a wire-line based medium,

said data manager block receiving a second command from said second client by said wire-line based medium, said second command being directed to a second field device contained in said plurality of devices, said data manager block forwarding said second command to said second field device on said control network. (Presently Amended Claim 8, *Emphasis Added*)

From the above, it may be appreciated that the features of claim 8 substantially parallel the features relied upon in the remarks above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 8 is allowable over Tapperson.

The remaining claims presented for consideration are allowable over Tapperson at least for one or more reasons noted above. Accordingly, all claims presented for consideration are believed to be allowable over Tapperson.

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Conclusion

Thus, all the objections and rejections are believed to be overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone Mr. Anthony Miologos at 602-313-5683 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

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Respectfully submitted,

Naren Thappeta

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